

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, February 1. 1711.

I Promis'd you a Story about putting Questions about Honour, but I cannot perform that Promise just now; you may meet with it in its Course — This is an Age of Enquiry into men of Honour, *I hope well always from such an Enquiry*, because Men of Honour will always find their Vindication in such a search, if it be done with Impartiality and Justice; if any have Views differing from a meer Veneration of Justice and publick Service, *here no doubt*, they will find themselves expos'd and disappointed — And *we will* hope, that nothing of Party shall prevail here — The warm Tempers of Men without Doors,

can never byas Men of such Rank and such Judgment — It is always consider'd here, that what is to day a Precedent to Ruin one Man, may to-Morrow be a Precedent to Ruin another; and the Proceedings here have always been Calm, Free, Impartial, and Upright — Even in King James's Arbitrary Days, when other Courts of Justice too much stoop'd to his Bloody Designs, he could not get a *Delamere* Sacrificed by all his Interest; the Reason was plain, he was to be Try'd by his Peers — Therein was his Safety, and even in the Presence of the King he was acquitted — The Mischiefs therefore that a Party among

way at, can never enter here, can never reach to overthrow Innocent Men here, and therefore I am in no Pain for Things on that Side.

But come we next to the Point of Credit, which I have too long let fall; POOR CREDIT! sunk and dejected, sighing and walking alone; I met her t'other Day in the Fields, I hardly knew her, she was so lean, so pale; look'd so sickly, so faint, and was so meanly dress'd; but when I came nearer to her, and saw the Old Air of Honesty that sat always upon her Face, I worship'd her Immediately, and paid all the Homage a Friend to Commerce ow'd her.

She vouchsafed to own her humble Votary, and smiling a little, told me, she was in a Condition only to acknowledge I was her Friend—— And so attempted to go on—— I would have interrupted her with speaking something, but she told me she could not say to say any more to me now, if ever she return'd to *England* again, she would—— I started at the Word, threw my self at her Feet, and beg'd I might have the Liberty to speak to her—— Which having obtain'd, I told her I was exceedingly surpris'd to hear her speak of returning to *England*; &c. which imply'd she was going away from us; I was going on, when she return'd short upon me, why, What should I do here? I have staid too long here already; you know how I have been us'd, how I have been Mob'd on one Side, and Mob'd on t'other Side; Bully'd and Insulted by Parties and Factions, and yet I have born it all with more Patience than I used to bear such Treatment with; I have, in short, stay'd till I am quite Ruin'd; I have neither Money, nor Trade, or Fund, to Aſs upon; and if I had, till you are better Friends with one another here, I can have no Satisfaction among you, and therefore I am just a going to take Shipping for another Country—— I beg'd she would tell me where she design'd to go, that I might follow her, for having still a Trading Inclination, I resolv'd to begin again somewhere, but it should be no where

but where she was pleas'd to appear; for What is Commerce? What Invention? What Stock? What Industry, without Credit?——

She made no Scruple to tell me, she resolv'd to go directly for *France*—— She had not been there she said, for a long Time, and they had Succeeded accordingly; she was sure they had such a Sense of the Loss and of the Service she was able to do them, that she would meet with very good Usage, and might find out some Ways and Means, to let *England* know they ought to have us'd her better.

I was too sensible of the Truth of what she said, not to be deeply concern'd at her Resolution of leaving the Island, but much more of her going over to the Enemy, and beg'd she would give me leave to make one Proposal to her, and to offer some Things to her Consideration, that perhaps might give her some Reason, at least, to delay so fatal a Resolution, till she had look'd a little farther into Matters, and that if she found any Room to Hope that Matters might be Retreiv'd, and she might meet with better Usage, she might not repeat the Changing her Resolution—— She told me it was impossible I could offer any Thing that she had not consider'd; that she saw no Disposition in the People to be easie with one another, or with their Rulers, or that those in whose Hands the Remedy lay, seem'd sensible of the Case—— She rather found People took her for a Bond-Woman, or a Fool, that had no Power to remove her Situation, or no Capacity to Resent; and she thought Absence, as it would be her Honour and Safety, so it would be the best Physick to bring the Nation to their Senses again.

I shall not trouble you with the Particulars, how I came to obtain a Parley with her upon these Heads; it is enough that I give you an Abstract of her Discourse—— She spoke with an Air of Compassion, of the divided Circumstances of this Nation, and with a too Prophetick Warmth of what would be the Consequence—— She reflected back on the Glory and Splendor she

she had liv'd in here, and how she never was in the like degree of Dignity in any part of the World, since she acted upon Earth; she began to recapitulate and run back into her own History for about 16 Years here, ever since the Year 96—She hinted how she Coin'd Paper, Money, and gave the Exchequer Credit for five Millions of Bills, only with the Breath of her Mouth; how she alter'd the Coin of *England* at a time of such Extremity, that it it had not been for her, the Nation had sunk in the Attempt; she told me how she resettled the Bank, took in all the Bankrupt Tallies, and their own Notes at *Par*, when the last were at 20 per Cent. Discount, and the first at above 40; how she United the *East India* Companies, when that Faction in Trade bid fair not to Ruin themselves only, but to Stock-jobb the whole Nation—She bid me look back upon the Funds Mortgage'd to her for Annuities, and ask'd me how the War had been carry'd on, but for her?

How many Millions says she, have I rais'd this unthankful People upon meer Air, and upon the Breath of a *Parliament*? And where, but for me, would you have rais'd such Immenſe Sums as these? And now my Face is Threatned to be wash'd with a Sponge; for which of all my Bounties have I deserv'd these Things? And what Condition are you in to go on without me, that I meet with such Usage as this?

These were such killing Words, and carry'd with them such Force, that I could not put in the least Negative; but I desir'd, however, to offer something to alleviate and lessen the Regret she had at these Things— I recogniz'd all the Great Things she had done for the Nation, and begg'd she would remember, that whatever some hot People on any Side might do, yet no Man of Sense, no Man that had any Concern for the Publick Interest of the Nation, or the Glory of their Sovereign, but always spoke of her with the greatest Respect; that all the Men of Trade, all the Men of Counsel, all the Ministers of State, whether Old or New, paid the utmost Ve-

neration to her very Name; that the Queen herself had done her the Honour to recommend her to the Lieutenancy of her Capital City— Here she interrupted me, and said, she was sensible the Queen had a great Kindness for her— But as to the Lieutenancy— she had nothing to do with them, and they had nothing to do with her— Here she paus'd, and I went on— Her Majesty, said I, had also recommended her to the *Parliament*— I observ'd at that very Word, she look'd something brighter and more cheerful than before; but she let me go on, as for the foolish abhor'd Story of a Sponge, &c. it was never spoken of by a Man of Sense, or a Man of Substance in the Nation without Abhorrence—

The Thing was Ridiculous in its Nature, Impracticable in its Circumstances, and odious to be so much as nam'd; and as no Men Entertain'd the Thing, but a few High-Flying Mad-Men, so I hoped she would Entertain any Resentment, as a Thing that Merited only her Contempt; that as such a Thing would Ruin her, so it would Ruin the Nation; and no Man could have a Thought so Vile and Absurd.

Here she told me she did not much Concern herself about that; but the main Thing that fix'd her Resolutions of taking her leave of this Island, was this— She saw innumerable Feuds and Factions, had Arm'd the Nation against itself; she saw the Breaches rather widening on either Side than closing, she saw no Disposition in either Party to be easie with one another; that while the People were uneasie, Property could not be safe; and while Property was made precarious she could not live among us— And therefore she resolv'd to go.

But, said I, the *Parliament*— Here she interrupted me— Ay, ay, says she, the *Parliament* may do it all if they please— But— And there she broke off a little abruptly.

I shall give you more of our Discourse in my next.—

A D V E R.

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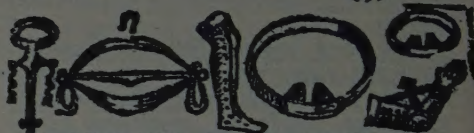
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W HEREAS many People being oftentimes troubled with the falling down of the Palate, and Almonds of the Ears, which frequently occasion Quinsies, Inflammations, Imposthumations, &c. in the Throat, This is to give Notice, that there is prepar'd, a most pleasant Gargle, which never fails curing in the worst of Cases, at three or four Times using, without any other help: It also heals Rawness, Soreness, Thrush, Cankers, Ulcers, Scurvy, and all other Distempers in the Throat, Mouth, and Gums, of Old and Young. Sold only at Mr. Laurences a Toy Shop, at the Griffin the Corner of Bucklersbury in the Poutry, at 3s. 6d. a Bottle, with Printed Directions.

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N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, lives at his House in Goodman's-Fields, and is very skillful in the Business to those of her own Sex.

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